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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4115

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STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DAN SCHAEFER
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER
MARKUP OF H.R. 629 -TEXAS COMPACT
May 13, 1997

H.R. 629 would grant Congressional consent to the Texas-Maine-Vermont **Low-**Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact. It would allow these states to join the 41 others who are already members of similar compacts, and finally allow them to begin their efforts to fully comply with the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980.

In that Act, Congress agreed that it would be the responsibility of States to dispose and manage low-level waste. It gave the States a broad degree of authority to deal with the management, siting and operation of low-level waste disposal facilities.

The Subcommittee has a simple two-step process before it. The first step is to ensure that the Texas Compact complies with the underlying requirements of the **Low-**Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act. The Texas Compact meets this test.

The second step is to grant Congressional consent to the Compact. This will allow these three States to move ahead with the compact and fulfill the requirements of the Federal Act. Representative Joe Barton — the Chairman of our Oversight Subcommittee — and Representative Ralph Hall — the ranking member of this Subcommittee — should be commended for their efforts to move H.R. 629 forward, and I encourage its approval by the Subcommittee.